

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515  
January 31, 2008

The Honorable Ed Schafer  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Gail Kimbell  
Chief  
U.S. Forest Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Re: Wind Energy, Proposed Forest Service Directives (RIN 0596-AC61)

Dear Secretary Schafer and Chief Kimbell:

We are writing to express concern about the Forest Service's draft guidelines for the development of wind energy projects on Forest Service lands issued on September 25, 2007. We believe that renewable energy development is an appropriate and important use of public lands and should be encouraged.

Reports suggest that wind energy is the fastest growing renewable energy resource in the United States. It is a non-emitting, readily-available, domestic, reliable, and competitive energy resource. Wind energy benefits the environment, consumers, local economies, American workers, and our nation's energy security.

Everyone recognizes that some areas are not suitable for wind development, including many areas on Forest Service lands. However, development can and should be done in a responsible way that takes into account local considerations and protects wildlife. We are concerned by the comments of the wind energy industry that the Forest Service did not work closely with their representatives, and as a result, the Forest Service's proposal may not appropriately balance the need to protect wildlife with the reality of how projects are developed and financed. Consequently, industry representatives have told us they are concerned that there will be such uncertainty about obtaining financing as to lead those who develop such projects to avoid considering Forest Service lands all together.

President Bush issued an executive order expediting renewable energy development on public lands in May 2001 and Congress expressed similar views in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. To achieve the vision outlined by Congress and the President, however, federal agencies need to ensure that siting regulations do not unnecessarily restrict wind energy development. Therefore, we urge the Forest Service to consider revising the draft guidelines after seeking more input from those with expertise in wind energy development.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

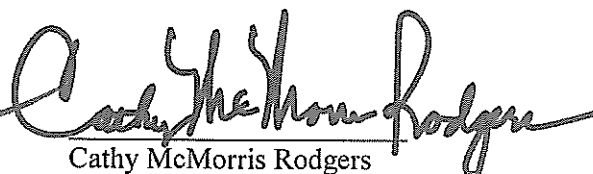
Sincerely,



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



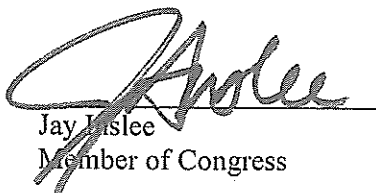
Stevan Pearce  
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



Greg Walden  
Member of Congress



Jay Inslee  
Member of Congress



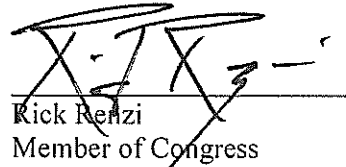
Mark Udall  
Member of Congress

[Cosigners attached]

Albert Wynn  
Member of Congress

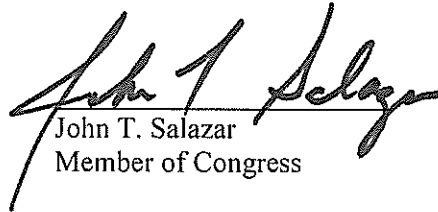
Kevin McCarthy  
Member of Congress



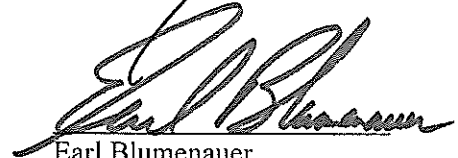
Rick Renzi  
Member of Congress



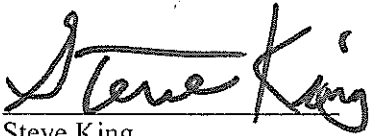
Frank Pallone  
Member of Congress



John T. Salazar  
Member of Congress



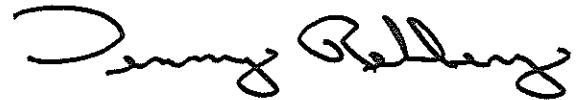
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Steve King  
Member of Congress



Mary Bono  
Member of Congress

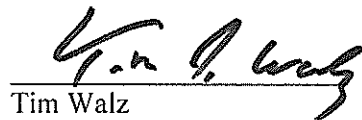


Denny Rehberg  
Member of Congress

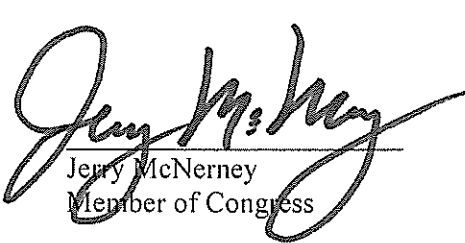
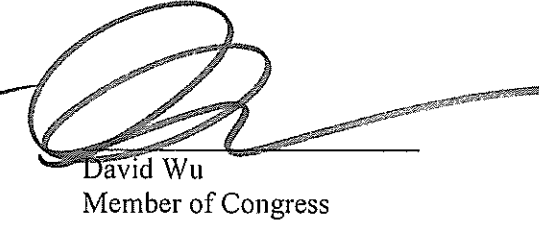
 

Doc Hastings  
Member of Congress

Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress

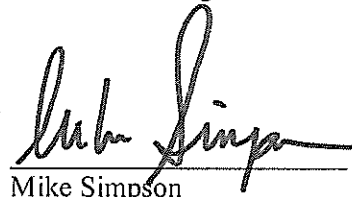


Tim Walz  
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

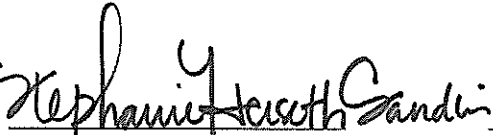
David Wu  
Member of Congress



Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress



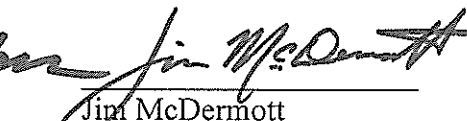
Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress



Stephanie Herseth Sandlin  
Member of Congress

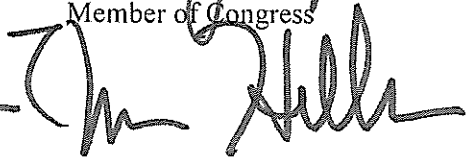


Nancy Boyda  
Member of Congress

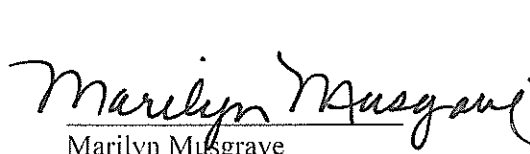
 

Randy Neugebauer  
Member of Congress

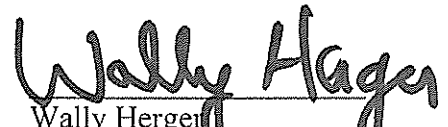
Jim McDermott  
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Dean Heller  
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Marilyn Musgrave  
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Barbara Cubin  
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Wally Herger  
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